

Message Text

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SUMMARY: GOP'S PRESSURES ON STATE-OWNED MEDIA WHICH TOOK ANTI-
REGIME LINE ARE BEGINNING TO ACHIEVE SOME TENTATIVE, THOUGH HARD-
FOUGHT, RESULTS. AN INTERNAL STORM IS BREWING AT COMMUNIST-
LINING "O SEUCULO" NEWSPAPER, AND THE GOP'S RADIO AND TV NETWORKS
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SHOW SOME "MODERATING" CHANGES. END SUMMARY.

1. INTERNAL STRUGGLE AT "O SECULO." A STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO WORKERS' FACTIONS PREVENTED PUBLICATION OF THAT LISBON MORNING DAILY ON OCT. 30 AND RESULTED IN A TRUNCATED EDITION FROM ONE FACTION OCT 31: ONE GROUP, WHICH FAVORS A CHANGE IN THE TOP DIRECTOR AND THE EDITORIAL CHIEF, WANTS TO MAKE THE PAPER "OPEN TO ALL ANTI-FASCIST AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST POSITIONS AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT DETRACT FROM THE WORKER'S CAUSE," THIS GROUP, WHOSE STAND IMPLIES ITS OPPOSITION TO PCP DE FACTO CONTROL OF THE NEWSPAPERS' EDITORIAL LINE IN RECENT MONTHS, AND THE

MAJORITY IN AN OCT. 27 SECRET BALLOT OF EMPLOYEES WHICH VOTED 363 IN FAVOR OF CHANGING THE DIRECTORATE, TO 62 COTES AGAINST AND 24 ABSTENTIONSJM MINORITY REFUSED TO ACCEPT RESULTS OF THAT VOTE AND CLAIMED THAT SUCH MOVE MUST BE MADE IN OPEN PLEKARY, NOT IN SECRET-VOTE REFERENDUM. OCT. 30 COMMUNIQUE FROM AN "O SECULO" WORKERS' COMMISSION WHICH FAVORS MINORITY VIEW ACCUSED MAJORITY GROUP OF BEING AT THE SERVICE OF PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY. SOCIEDADE NACIONAL DE TIPOGRAFIA, WHICH PUBLISHES "O SECULO" AND THREE NATIONAL MAGAZINES, IS RUNNING ERIOS DEFICIT. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WORKERS WHO WERE IN MAJORITY IN REFERENDUM TOOK SERIOUSLY STATEMENT BY SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS THAT GOP COULD NOT FINANCE DEFICITS OF PUBLICATIONS WHICH ATTACKED THE REGIME AND WHICH THE PUBLIC DID NOT CHOOSE TO BUY. "O SECULO" CIRCULATION, NOW AROUND 30,000, HAS DROPPED FROM AN EARLY 1974 FIGURES OF APPROXIMATELY 70,000. IT IS UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT HOW THE "O SECULO" INTERNAL STRUGGLE WILL END& THE TYPESETTERS AND PRINTERS WHO APPARENTLY SUPPORTED THE REFERENDUM MINORITY VIEW PUBLISHED A HALF-SIZE (EIGHT-PAGE) EDITION OF THE PAPER OCT. 31. BUT THE OTHER SIDE, WHICH HAD THE REFERENDUM MAJORITY, SAID IT DID NOT AGREE TO THE PRINTER'S CHOICE FOR A NEW DIRECTOR--A PRINTSHOP WORKMAN. MEANWHILE, MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS SAID HE WOULD MEET WITH CONTENDING FACTIONS OF "O SECULO" ON OCT. 31 TO SEEK AN INTERIM SOLUTION, BUT THAT THE NEWSPAPER'S SITUATION ALSO WOULD BE TAKEN UP BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF POLICY-MAKING REGARDING THE ENTIRE GROUP OF DEFICIT-RUNNING STATE-OWNED NEWSPAPERS. ALMEIDA SANTOS HINTED THAT A NEW GOVERNMENT

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HOLDING COMPANY MIGHT BE CREATED TO MANAGE ALL STATE-OWNED PUBLICATIONS.

2. TENTATIVE CHANGES AT RADIO, TV: THE GOP RECENTLY HAS NAMED NEW, MORE POLITICALLY MODERATE PRESIDENTS FOR BOTH THE STATE-OWNED TELEVISION NETWORK (RTP) AND THE GOVERNMENT'S EMISSORA NACIONAL (EN) RADIO NETWORK. BOTH MEDIA HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED FOR THEIR NEW "BOURGEOUS WAYS" BY THE COMMUNIST-

LINING MEDIA IN RECENT DAYS, AN INDICATION THAT THE NETWORKS ARE VARYING TO SOME DEGREE FROM THEIR PREVIOUS ANTI-AZEVEDO REGIME APPROACHES. SO FAR, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF DEGREE, FOR EN STILL CARRIES THE HOUR-LONG RADIO ESTUDANTIAL AFTERNOON SHOW, WHICH IS BLATANTLY ANTI-GOVERNMENT, PRO-FAR LEFT AND EN NEWSCASTS' POLITICAL ORIENTATION VARY FROM ONE NEWS TEAM TO ANOTHER; ONE DAY LAST WEEK THE 1:00 P.M. NEWSCASTER READ A STATEMENT THAT HIS NEWS CREW WAS "NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NEWSCASTS PREPARED IN THE MORNINGS" WHEN THE POLITICAL TONE IS CONSIDERABLY MORE COMMUNIST ORIENTED. YET, OVERALL, A SOMEWHAT BETTER POLITICAL BALANCE IS OBSERVABLE MUCH OF THE TIME. AT

RTP, EVENING PRIME-TIME NEWSCASTS SHOW A SIGN OF IMPROVED POLITICAL BALANCE AS WELL, AND THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS PORTIONS SOME EVENINGS ACTUALLY GIVE NEWS WHICH HAS NO PRO-COMMUNIST LINE--AN APPROACH UNHEARD OF FOR MANY MONTHS. BUT, THIS TOO IS A CHANGE IN DEGREE ONLY, AND WILL REMAIN SO UNTIL FURTHER STAFF CHANGES ARE MADE AT RTP, WHERE ALMOST ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS ARE SUPPORTERS OF THE PCP OR SFAR-LEFT PARTIES, EVEN THOUGH THE MAJORITY OF THE STAFF APPARENTLY HAS MORE MODERATE POLITICAL LEANINGS.

3. OTHER GOP MEDIA INITIATIVES: THE GOP CONTINUES TO TAKE PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS TO COURT ON CHARGES OF INFRINGING THE PRESS LAW; THESE INVOLVE, FOR INSTANCE, ALLEGED DEFAMATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT AND PUBLICATION OF A SUV STATEMENT THAT THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT IS MADE UP OF "TRAITORS". MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS IS HOLDING A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH WORKERS FROM STATE-OPERATED NEWSPAPERS, IN WHICH HE IS HEARING, BUT RESISTING, DEMANDS THAT THE GOP CONTINUE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PAPERS WHICH OPPOSE THE REGIME. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AIR FORCE PLANES WILL BE USED AFTER NOG. 11 TO TRANSPORT OPORTO MORNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEWSPAPERS TO LISBON AND LISBON NEWSPAPERS TO OPORTO HAS MET WITH CONSIDERABLE APPROVAL AMONG THE "INDEIENDENT" NEWSPAPERS,

BUT OBVIOUSLY IS PROVING FEAR AT LISBON'S COMMUNIST-LINING

MORNING NEWSPAPERS WHOSE A.M. MONOPOLY HAD BEEN HERETOFORE UNCHALLENGED IN THE CAPITAL. (THE GOP ALSO HAS UNOFFICALLY ENCOURAGED A GROUP WHICH HOPES TO START A NEW CENTER-RIGHT

MORNING DAILY IN LISBON WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH. (SEE REFTEL).
COMMENT: ALL OF THESE INITIATIVES ARE CREATING PRESSURES ON THE COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED MEDIA WHICH, IF THEY CAN BE MAINTAINED, COULD PRODUCE IMPORTANT CHANGES DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.
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